

representative to sign the district's contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for extending storage rights in the Pueblo Reservoir for

the district's renewable surface water from the Willow Creek Ranch.

The next regular meeting

will be held at 1:30 p.m. on May 16 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603

or [www.donalawater.org/news-events/board-meeting-agenda.html](http://www.donalawater.org/news-events/board-meeting-agenda.html)

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Monument Sanitation District, April 18

# State grants expected for nutrient treatment equipment

By Jim Kendrick

On April 18, District Manager Mike Wicklund briefed the Monument Sanitation District board on the state's proposed \$15 million nutrient management grant program for the state's 46 large wastewater treatment facilities. The grants are intended to help facilities like the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility comply with state's new tighter discharge permit limits for the nutrients phosphorus and nitrogen.

The absence of board President Ed DeLaney was excused.

Wicklund noted that funding for the grant program will be provided by Gov. John Hickenlooper's initiative, House Bill 13-1191. This bill has been approved by the state House and Senate Review and Appropriations Committees. All three readings in both the state House and Senate review processes were also approved, as amended.

The next step for final approval is House approval as amended by the Senate. The bill is expected to be passed with very little amendment because both the Colorado House and Senate have Democratic majorities that will support Hickenlooper's initiative.

For more information on the amended wording of HB 13-1191 and its legislative history, see [www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2013A/csl.nsf/BillFoldersHouse?openFrameset](http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2013A/csl.nsf/BillFoldersHouse?openFrameset) and select "House Bills 1151-1200" by the "GO" button at the top of the page.

The Tri-Lakes facility meets the four grant eligibility criteria in HB13-1191:

- Domestic wastewater treatment facility.
- Discharges to a high-priority watershed—Monument Creek and Fountain Creek watershed.
- Owned and operated by local government entities—The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility entity and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District.
- Rated at 4.6 million gallons per day (MGD), well above the 2 MGD limit for having to comply with the new nutrient limits in the state's new Control Regulation 85.

As currently proposed by the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD), the money from HB13-

1191 will provide:

- 34 planning grants for up to \$80,000—with a 20 percent match from the facility owners.
- 12 design and construction grants for up to \$1 million—no match required.
- \$300,000 for administration of the three-year grant program by one full-time employee of the WQCD.

For facilities with more than one owning entity, like Tri-Lakes, the WQCD will use averages of all the eligibility statistics in prioritizing grant applications. The grant award will be distributed between the owners identified on the grant application in the percentages specified by the applicants.

Wicklund stated that he had asked for these modifications at the stakeholder workgroup meetings held in Denver so that the Monument, Palmer Lake, and Woodmoor districts, could each apply for the maximum grant amount that they could accept without triggering the 10 percent TABOR cap on accepting state grants. The TABOR grant cap is 10 percent of a district's revenues, so each of these three districts must ask for a separate grant amount.

For grant eligibility, construction must be completed and approved by the state by September 2016. Applicants must certify in their grant applications that they have the entire project funding in hand and appropriated to be able to pay for the entire project before receiving any reimbursement from the grant.

Monument and Palmer Lake can accept about \$50,000 each

and Woodmoor can accept about \$150,000 to \$300,000 under this TABOR restriction. These districts may have to ask voters to override TABOR to be eligible for a full \$1 million construction grant. Even though Woodmoor may end up contributing more grant money to the project due to this TABOR restriction, there will be no change in the one-third ownerships or individual ownership of treatment capacities.

Wicklund said he expects the Tri-Lakes facility to be awarded a grant based on Monument's active leadership in the stakeholder meetings and the division staff's appreciation of Monument's expertise in helping it formulate policies that address the complex rules and restrictions that apply to state grant awards. The changes requested by Monument will help ensure successful implementation and expeditious disbursement of the grant funding, he said.

Wicklund noted the pressure

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